Contract Farming Law

3722. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to frame a Contract Farming Law to regulate the working conditions of the farm labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed law is likely to be put in place ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to enact a separate law titled "Contract Farming Law" to regulate the working conditions of the Farm Labour. However, in the wake of economic liberalisation, the Government have undertaken a review of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The amendments which may be effected in the said Act have not been finalized. Therefore, it is premature to state when the amendment would be carried out.

Policy for rain fed farming

3723. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a comprehensive policy for rainfed farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such a policy would be in place ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Government of India have formulated a comprehensive National Agriculture Policy in July, 2000. It includes policy for rainfed farming in the country.

(b) The National Agriculture Policy, 2000, as it pertains to rainfed farming, provides :

- Integrated and holistic development of rainfed areas will be promoted by conservation of rain water by vegetative measures on watershed basis and augmentation of biomass production through agro and farm forestry with the involvement of the watershed community.
- All spatial components of a watershed, *i.e.* arable land, non-arable and drainage lines will be treated as one geo-hydrological entity.
- Management of grazing land will receive greater attention for augmenting availability of animal feed and fodder.